

Testimony for Public Health Committee
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Bill No. 683 An Act Concerning Early Childhood Lead Poisoning

Good morning Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and members of the Committee.

My name is Amy McLean Salls and I am the Project Coordinator for the LAMPP project. LAMPP is a statewide lead poisoning prevention program distributes information and financial resources to landlords in high risk areas in CT. LAMPP assists property owners in addressing lead hazards in their properties while educating all residents residing in there as well. LAMPP is a HUD funded program of the Department of Social Services and is run by the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. While our main focus is housing we work with many institutions and agencies to address other lead poisoning core problems.

Lead poisoning crosses issue lines. Therefore agencies have to work together on those issues that effect children. Addressing children's health, housing and education needs through collaborative work with Department of Social Services, Department of Public Health, State Department Education, early education programs such as Birth to Three, individuals, foundations and non-profit organizations will get us to the solution that works.

For the past year LAMPP has been working with these groups and individuals I just mentioned to address the educational needs of children affected by lead poisoning in CT. We anticipate funding from the Department of Social Services to develop methods for the education of educators on issues of lead poisoning. The methods will include general information for educators through web- based courses- such as LEAD 101 as well as supplying the SERC Library with lead education DVD's. We are exploring the training of educators on Cognitive and Neurodevelopmental models used as tools to help kids here and around the country. We may use the train the trainer model in a targeted fashion to stretch the funding and information as far as possible. The development and implementation of this plan however, will need long- term commitment on the part of the state and this bill could assist in this effort.

I would like to close with a quote from the recently published "Ready by Five & Fine by Nine" report prepared by the CT Early Childhood Education Cabinet. The concluding remarks in the report state that to reach the ultimate goal of children entering school without significant safety and developmental delays:

" It will require partnerships of families, schools, communities and the state. The investment of both human and fiscal resources in the lives and school readiness of our youngest children surely will be counted as dividends as we strive to prepare a quality workforce for the future"